



Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

Suspense builds at border over future of U.S. asylum rules



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An electronic sign flashes "Watch for unexpected pedestrians," Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2022, on the highway next to the fenced US-Mexican border just east of downtown El Paso, Texas, next to one of the three bridges that connect the Texas city with the sprawling metropolis of Juarez, Mexico. Associated Press



"We need to give priority to modern slavery"

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City center must become a center of housing and gastronomy

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Suspense builds at border over future of U.S. asylum rules

By **MORGAN LEE, GIOVANNA DELL'ORTO and REBECCA SANTANA** Associated Press

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — Suspense mounted at the U.S. border with Mexico on Tuesday about the future of restrictions on asylum-seekers as the Supreme Court issued a temporary order to keep pandemic-era limits on migrants in place.

Conservative-leaning states won a reprieve — though it could be brief — as they push to maintain a measure that allows officials to expel many but not all asylum-seekers. In a last-ditch appeal to the Supreme Court, they argued that an increased numbers of migrants would take a toll on public services such as law enforcement and health care and warned of an "unprecedented calamity" at the southern border.

Chief Justice John Roberts granted a stay pending further order, asking the administration of President Joe Biden to respond by 5 p.m. Tuesday. That's just hours before restrictions are slated to expire Wednesday.

The Department of Homeland Security, which is responsible for enforcing border security, acknowledged Roberts' order — and said the agency would continue "preparations to manage the border in a safe, orderly, and humane way when the Title 42 public health order lifts."

Migrants have been denied rights to seek asylum under U.S. and international law 2.5 million times since March 2020 on grounds of preventing the spread of COVID-19 under a public-health rule called Title 42.

With the decision on what comes next going down to the wire, pressure is building in communities along both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border.

In El Paso, Democratic Mayor Oscar Leeser warned that shelters across the border in Ciudad Juárez are packed to capacity with an estimated 20,000 migrants who are prepared to cross into the U.S.



U.S. military guard El Paso's border with Mexico, seen from Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2022.

Associated Press

Despite the court's stay, the city of El Paso rushed to expand its ability to accommodate more migrants by converting large buildings into shelters, as the Red Cross brings in 10,000 cots. Local officials also hope to relieve pressure on local shelters by chartering buses to other large cities in Texas or nearby states, bringing migrants a step closer to relatives and sponsors in coordination with nonprofit groups.

"We will continue to be prepared for whatever is coming through," Leeser said. Troops in tactical gear under Texas state command on Tuesday used razor wire to cordon off a gap in the border fence along a bank of the Rio Grande that became a popular crossing point in recent days for migrants who waded through shallow waters to approach immigration officials.

Texas said Monday that it was sending 400 National Guard personnel to El Paso, after city officials declared a state of emergency. Leeser said the declaration was aimed largely at protecting vulnerable migrants, while the deploy-

ment included forces used to "repel and turn-back illegal immigrants," according to a Texas National Guard statement.

A flashing sign warned motorists to "watch for unexpected pedestrians" on a highway that extends along the fenced-off border, near three bridges that connect El Paso with Mexico.

At a church-affiliated shelter a few blocks from the border, migrants including children lined up early afternoon Monday in hopes of securing a bed for the night, accepting donations of food from a succession of cars bearing gifts. Police and municipal garbage workers arrived to remove abandoned blankets and discarded possessions.

The Rev. Michael Gallagher, a priest at Sacred Heart Church in downtown El Paso, said local faith leaders have been trying to pool resources and open up empty space. On Tuesday, a gym at the church gave shelter to 200 migrants — mostly women and children.

Outside the church Monday, Jose Natera, a 48-year-old handyman from the

Venezuelan town of Guacaipuro, said he traveled for three months to reach El Paso, sometimes on foot, with no money or sponsors to take him further.

"I have to stop here until I can get a ticket" out, he said.

El Paso residents Roberto Lujan and Daniela Centeno handed out fruit, Hostess cakes, soda and chips at a street corner.

"I have to do it," said Lujan, a 39-year-old construction worker. "I have kids and I know the struggle."

Conservative-leaning states have argued that the federal government has no plan to deal with an increase in migrants — while in Washington, Republicans are set to take control of the House and make immigration a key issue.

Biden administration officials said they have marshaled more resources to the border in preparation for the end of Title 42. That includes more Border Patrol processing coordinators, more surveillance and increased security at ports of entry.

About 23,000 agents are currently deployed to the

southern border, according to the White House.

Immigration advocates have said that the Title 42 restrictions, imposed under provisions of a 1944 health law, go against American and international obligations to people fleeing to the U.S. to escape persecution — and that the pretext is outdated as coronavirus treatments improve. They sued to end the use of Title 42; a federal judge in November sided with them and set the Dec. 21 deadline.

The Roman Catholic bishop of El Paso, Mark Seitz, expressed concern that the stay would keep migrants who had to flee their homes from even making a case for protection in the U.S., after years of pent-up need.

"What happens now with all those on their way?" he said.

Title 42 restrictions have applied to all nationalities but have fallen disproportionately on those from countries that Mexico has agreed to take back: Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and, more recently Venezuela, in addition to Mexico. □

EPA to tighten nitrogen oxide limits for new heavy trucks

By TOM KRISHER

AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — In a little over four years, new heavy truck makers will have to cut harmful nitrogen oxide pollution more than 80% under new standards released Tuesday by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Some environmental and health advocates praised the standards but others said they don't go far enough to curb nitrogen oxide, which can cause issues including respiratory illness, cardiovascular problems and even death. Problems are more acute in industrial and port areas, causing health problems for low-income residents who live there. The EPA says 72 million people live near freight routes in the

U.S. The standards, coupled with greenhouse gas emission limits coming next year, and government investments, eventually will lead to zero-emissions electric and hydrogen fuel cell trucks carrying most of the nation's freight, the agency said.

"This is just the first action under EPA's clean trucks plan to pave the way toward a zero-emission future," Administrator Michael Regan said in a prepared statement.

The standards, the first update in more than 20 years, limit nitrogen oxide emissions from new semis and other heavy trucks to 35 milligrams per horsepower hour. The current standard is 200 milligrams, the EPA said. One horsepower hour is the equivalent of energy

consumed by working at the rate of one horsepower for a single hour.

EPA officials say catalytic reduction technology is available for truck engine manufacturers to meet the large reduction when the standards take effect in 2027. The agency also says the standards can be met at a reasonable cost. The stronger standard will not change and will remain in place for multiple years, the EPA said.

As the fleet of heavy trucks is replaced by newer vehicles, it should reduce nitrogen oxide pollution by 48% by 2045, the EPA said.

The agency expects greenhouse gas standards and incentives in the Inflation Reduction Act to bring the replacement of all diesel



Tractor-trailers are stacked up along the eastbound lanes of Interstate 70 near East Airpark Road, Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2022, in Aurora, Colo.

Associated Press

trucks with zero-emissions alternatives, said Margo Oge, a former director of the EPA's transportation and air quality office. Oge, now a volunteer with the Environmental Protection Network, expects at least half of all new heavy trucks

to be powered by batteries or hydrogen fuel cells by 2030.

The Truck and Engine Manufacturers Association said the new standards will be challenging to put in place, but its members will work with the EPA. □

Christmas tree demand remains high despite inflation

By DAVID SHARP

Associated Press

SOUTH PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — For all the worries about inflation and the economy, Americans aren't scrimping on a centerpiece of many celebrations this holiday season: the Christmas tree.

Retailers from Home Depot and Lowes to mom and pop operations raised their prices on trees but people are still buying them.

Some Christmas tree growers fretted over external factors high fuel, fertilizer and labor costs only to rediscover that holiday greenery is largely inflation-proof, even as Americans cut back on retail spending last month.

The cost of an average-size tree from the local Rotary Club's Christmas trees in South Portland, Maine, is \$70 \$5 more than last year. □



Larry Gurnee carries a \$55 Christmas tree he selected with his wife, Libby Gurnee, background, at a Rotary Club tree sale, Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2022, in South Portland, Maine.

Associated Press



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Planned Parenthood starts telemedicine abortions in Kansas

By JOHN HANNA
Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — A Planned Parenthood affiliate announced Tuesday that it has started teleconferences with off-site doctors for patients seeking medication abortions at one of its Kansas clinics, a small step toward potentially much broader access in a state that has become a destination for the procedure after an August vote affirming abortion rights. Planned Parenthood Great Plains said it began offering telemedicine consultations Monday to patients visiting its Wichita clinic. President and CEO Emily Wales said the immediate goal is to have more days that patients can go there to get medication abortions. She said her affiliate hopes to offer the service to patients visiting its other two clinics on the Kansas side of the Kansas City area “in short order” and eventually to allow patients in doctors’ offices and clinics across the state to teleconference with its physicians. The move comes as Kansas abortion providers say they are seeing a flood of requests for appointments from women in states with



Dr. Elizabeth Brett Daily enters an exam room consult with a patient about the medical abortion process at a Planned Parenthood clinic on Oct. 12, 2022, in Kansas City, Kan.

more strenuous restrictions on abortion than Kansas particularly Oklahoma and Texas. Kansas voters in August decisively voted to retain state constitutional protections for abortion rights. The announcement came less than a month after a state-court judge blocked enforcement of Kansas’ ban on telemedicine abortions. The abortionfinder.org website lists 26 other states in which

residents seeking abortion medications can teleconference with doctors, including Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan and Wyoming. However, for some states, the website lists only online pill providers, such as Aid Access or carafem. “My vision for telehealth medication abortion is the same as my vision for abortion generally, which is that it would be widely accessible by many providers,”

Wales said in an interview ahead of the announcement. The blocked Kansas law required a doctor to be in the same room with a patient taking what is typically the first of two doses of medication to end a pregnancy. Another provider, a Wichita clinic operated by the abortion rights group Trust Women, offered telemedicine abortions for a few months late in 2018 but stopped because the legal

climate was uncertain at the time. Trust Women also expects to offer telemedicine abortions but has said it is considering what additional staff and infrastructure it will need. Eighteen states have bans on telemedicine abortions in place, according to national groups on both sides of the debate. They include Arizona, Indiana, Nebraska and North Carolina. Abortion opponents have long argued that telemedicine bans protect women’s health by ensuring a physician is present to deal with major problems, though research has shown that abortion pills are safe. The long-term goal, Wales said, is to work with a network of doctors or clinics across the state so that women don’t have to travel to Wichita or the Kansas City area to obtain abortion medications. Patients in states with more restrictive abortion laws still would have to travel to Kansas, as they do now. Doctors doing the teleconsulting also would have to be licensed to practice medicine in Kansas, as they must be now. □

Associated Press

Spurred by regulators, 3M to phase out “forever chemicals”

By MATT OTT
AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — 3M will phase out the manufacturing of so-called “forever chemicals” and try

to get them out of all their products within two years, the chemical and consumer products maker said Tuesday. The decision announced

Tuesday arrives after U.S. environmental regulators designated the chemicals used in nonstick frying pans, water-repellent sports gear, stain-resistant rugs, cosmetics and countless other consumer products since the 1940s - as hazardous substances under the Superfund law. While the designation is not an outright ban, polyfluoroalkyl substances, better known as PFAS, require a report to federal, state or tribal officials if the amount released into soil or water meet or exceed a certain level. The Environmental Protection Agency could then require cleanups to protect public health and recover cleanup costs. PFAS have been voluntarily phased out by U.S. manu-

facturers but are still in limited use and remain in the environment because they do not degrade over time. 3M said its decision was based on multiple factors, including “accelerating regulatory trends focused on reducing or eliminating the presence” of the chemicals in the environment. The chemicals can accumulate and persist in the human body for long periods of time, and evidence from animal and human studies indicates that exposure to PFAS may lead to cancer or other health problems, including damage to organs including the liver, kidneys and thyroid gland. 3M, based in Saint Paul, Minnesota, said it will exit all

PFAS manufacturing and “work to discontinue use of PFAS” in all its products by the end of 2025. 3M makes a broad range of consumer products, including Post-it notes, Scotch Brite cleaning supplies, adhesives and personal protective equipment. Chemical and other industrial companies have been sued frequently in recent years for downplaying the dangers of the chemicals. In a November lawsuit, the state of California accused 3M, Dupont and 16 smaller companies of covering up the harm caused to the environment and the public from chemicals manufactured by the firms that have over decades found their way into waterways and human bloodstreams. □



The logo for chemical and consumer products maker 3M appears on a screen above the trading floor of the New York Stock Exchange on Oct. 24, 2017.

Associated Press

North Korea threatens strong military step against Japan

By HYUNG-JIN KIM

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— North Korea threatened Tuesday to take a “resolute and decisive military step” against Japan while it slammed Tokyo’s adoption of a national security strategy as an attempt to turn the country into “an offensive military giant.”

The North’s statement came four days after Japan announced a security strategy that includes a counterstrike capability against enemy targets and doubles its military spending to gain a more offensive footing against threats from China and North Korea.

The North’s Foreign Ministry said in a statement that Japan’s push to acquire counterstrike capability has nothing to do with self-defense but is a clear attempt to acquire “preemptive attack capability meant to launch strikes on other countries’ territories.”

“Japan’s foolish attempt to satiate its black-hearted greed the building up of its military invasion capability under the pretext of (North Korea’s) legitimate exercise of the right to self-defense cannot be justified and tolerated,” an uniden-



Protesters confront police officers during a rally to oppose Japan’s adoption of a new national security strategy near the Japanese Embassy in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2022.

Associated Press

tified ministry spokesperson said in a statement carried by state media.

The statement accused the United States of supporting and instigating the Japanese military ambitions and undermining regional peace. It said that such U.S. moves are forcing North Korea to work hard to complete its plans to develop new strategic weapons to thwart enemy attempts to invade it. The statement said North Korea

wants to make sure it can take “a resolute and decisive military step” to protect its sovereignty and national interests in the wake of the complexity of regional security caused by the Japanese strategy.

“Our country will continue to take actions to show how much we are concerned and displeased with Japan’s unjust, greedy attempt to realize its wild ambitions,” the statement said. Like in some other

Asian countries, anti-Japanese sentiments still run deep in North Korea because of Japan’s wartime atrocities. The Korean Peninsula was under Japanese colonial rule from 1910-1945 before it was split into a capitalist, U.S.-backed South Korea and a socialist, Soviet-supported North Korea at the end of the World War II. North Korea’s state media routinely criticize Japanese colonial past. Its statement Tuesday called

Japan “a war criminal state which inflicted untold misfortune and sufferings upon the Korean people.”

North Korea’s pursuit of nuclear-tipped missiles is a major security concern for Japan, which sits in their range together with South Korea and the mainland U.S. In October, North Korea fired an intermediate-range missile over Japan, forcing Tokyo to issue evacuation alerts and halt trains. On Tuesday, Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno accused North Korea of posing “serious and pressing threats” to Japanese and regional security with its unprecedented pace of missile tests this year. He said Japan will cooperate with the United State and South Korea to achieve North Korea’s denuclearization. The Japanese strategy names China as “the biggest strategic challenge” before North Korea and Russia to Tokyo’s efforts to ensure peace, safety and stability. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said last week that “hyping up the so-called China threat to find an excuse for (Japan’s) military buildup is doomed to fail.” □

Former Australian leader Kevin Rudd appointed U.S. ambassador

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)

— Former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has been chosen as the nation’s next ambassador to the United States.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced the appointment Tuesday, citing Rudd’s roles as leader and foreign minister as well as his academic back-

ground as a China scholar and previous work in the U.S. Albanese said Rudd would begin early next year. “Dr. Rudd brings unmatched experience to the role,” Albanese said.

In a statement, Rudd said he was greatly honored to be chosen. He said Australia faces the most challenging security and diplomatic environment it has in decades.

Rudd served as prime minister from 2007 to 2010 and again briefly in 2013 before his center-left Labor party lost a general election. He served as foreign minister from 2010 to 2012.

Australia has a rough-and-tumble political style, and Rudd was abruptly replaced as prime minister by Julia Gillard in 2010, who

was then herself abruptly replaced by Rudd in 2013. Rudd has often been a divisive figure in Australian politics, and reporters on Tuesday questioned Albanese about appointing somebody who had a reputation as a micromanager and who has been harshly critical of media mogul Rupert Murdoch and former President Donald Trump. Albanese said Rudd was an “outstanding appointment” and the U.S. would view the choice of a former prime minister as “very significant.” “I am very pleased that Kevin Rudd is prepared to do this,” Albanese said. “He certainly doesn’t need to do this. He’s doing it out of a part of what he sees as his service obligation to the country

that he loves. And I am sure that he will serve very well.” Rudd, who speaks Mandarin, is currently serving as president and chief executive of the Asia Society in New York.

He has lived in the U.S. for most of the past decade, working first at the Harvard Kennedy School researching U.S.-China relations, followed by eight years in various roles at the Asia Society. “In some ways, my new position will not be dissimilar to the work I have been undertaking at Asia Society to support greater cooperation between the U.S. and the countries of our region experience which should hold me in good stead for the challenge ahead,” Rudd said in his statement. □



Former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd gestures at a Labor Party rally during the federal election campaign in Brisbane, Australia on May 15, 2022.

Associated Press

Police in Australia co-opted COVID-19 apps to fight crime

By **ROD MCGUIRK**

Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)

— Biker boss Nick Martin's murder at a speedway in Perth, Australia, left police a trove of evidence that led them to the culprit: a thrill-seeker turned gun-for-hire. But they wanted more. The coronavirus pandemic provided it in the form of an electronic dragnet: QR code check-in data from contact tracing apps of 2,439 fans who attended the December 2020 race. A government order requiring people to provide contact tracing information in case of a COVID-19 outbreak meant that anyone who checked in at the raceway that day left their name, phone number and arrival time through the SafeWA COVID-19 app or on paper. Police issued an "order to produce" the information to the state Health Department two days after Martin was shot and killed.

Police accessed the data despite Western Australia Premier Mark McGowan's promise that the data would only be accessible to contact tracing personnel.

"They've breached the trust of the West Australian public and they have let



Mourners gather at a funeral parlor in north Perth, Australia before riding to the funeral of murdered Rebels biker Nick Martin at Pinnaroo Cemetery in Perth, Australia, on Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2020.

Associated Press

everybody down," Mia Davies, leader of the state's opposition National Party, said in a written statement blaming the government for not legislating safeguards from the start. Western Australia police didn't respond to requests for comment from The Associated Press.

Unable to negotiate a solution with police, McGowan's government ultimately passed laws in June 2021 that banned law

enforcement from accessing such QR data. Multiple other Australian states and territories also introduced laws to prevent police from accessing contact tracing data.

Some critics blame Australia's lacking privacy regulations for the way police have leveraged information collected for a health emergency. Comparable countries including New Zealand and the United Kingdom have QR check-

ins that don't collect and house information about individual whereabouts in central databases, said cryptographer Vanessa Teague, an Australian National University privacy researcher.

An alternative is to store contact tracing data on people's individual phones, so the app user's information is only accessed when they have been in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19.

Michelle Falstein, assistant secretary of the New South Wales Council for Civil Liberties, said Australia's 1988 Privacy Act was enacted before the internet was widely used and long before virtually every adult citizen and teenager had a smart phone.

"Privacy by design is something that legislators or certainly government doesn't think about in Australia," Falstein said.

In Perth, the QR check-in data tapped by police hasn't been shown in court to have anything to do with arresting Nick Martin's killer, who has since pleaded guilty. Identified in court documents only by the initials B.L.J., the shooter crawled in through a hole in the fence and fled the same way, presumably avoiding the QR check-in. His name is being withheld by authorities because he's a cooperating witness against the man who he alleges hired him for the hit. Ordinary cell phone data placed B.L.J. at the spot ballistic experts calculated the bullet was fired from. CCTV showed him at the track earlier that day wearing Fila running shoes similar to those that left footprints at the shooter's vantage point. □

Officials say Pakistan raid kills all Taliban hostage-takers

By **RIAZ KHAN and**

MUNIR AHMED

Associated Press

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)

— Pakistan's special forces raided a police center in a



Security officials guard a blocked road leading to a counterterrorism center after security forces starting to clear the compound seized earlier by Pakistani Taliban militants in Bannu, a northern district in the Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2022.

Associated Press

remote northwestern district on Tuesday and killed 33 detainees linked to the Pakistani Taliban who earlier this week overpowered guards at the facility, the country's defense minister said.

Before the rescue operation, the Taliban detainees had seized arms and killed two hostages, Defense Minister Khawaja Mohammad Asif told the parliament.

Asif said the remaining hostages were freed Tuesday, but did not provide a number. Earlier, the Taliban had claimed they were holding at least eight security personnel. Asif said 15 members of the security forces were wounded and all 33 hostage-takers were killed

in the operation.

The police center is located in Bannu, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

The detainees, held at the facility for years, had overpowered their guards on Sunday. Officials said subsequent negotiations with the Pakistani Taliban were unsuccessful. The Taliban had demanded a safe passage to former strongholds of the militant group. Mohammad Ali Saif, a government spokesman in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, said the Taliban hostage-takers were given a chance to surrender before the raid but refused.

Thick black smoke billowed into the sky from inside the compound after two ex-

plosions were heard as the raid got underway Tuesday. Intermittent gunshots continued reverberating across the area for two hours, officials said.

Sunday's takeover of the police center reflected the Pakistani government's difficulties to exercise control over the remote region along the border with Afghanistan.

The Pakistani Taliban, also known as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan or TTP, are separate but allied with the Afghan Taliban, who seized power in neighboring Afghanistan last year as U.S. and NATO troops were in the final weeks of their pull-out from the country after 20 years of war. □

Minister of Economic Affairs, Mr. Geoffrey Wever: City center must become a center of housing and gastronomy



ORANJESTAD – During the unveiling of the first phase of the project Revitalization of Oranjestad last week, minister of Economic Affairs, Mr. Geoffrey Wever expressed that after speaking with everyone – big and small businesses – who wanted to share their thoughts, vision, desires and concerns for the future of the Main Street, Caya Betico F. Croes, and the center of Oranjestad, the conclusion was reached that the city center needs to become a center of housing and gastronomy.

For the first phase, it was chosen to begin with the revitalization of the area of Colombusstraat and Wilhelminastraat, which

will receive a public investment that will translate in infrastructural changes to enhance the area, make it more accessible to people with limitations, and include more plants to provide more shade and comfort in this public area in the city center.

There will also be investments made in more illumination for the area and more terraces and recreational areas. This way, the sense of security will increase and support will be given to investments that have already been made in the area from the private sector. Together with the private sector, the intention is to create the maximum impact with what little public funds are available.

Soon the procedure will begin for Oranjestad to be recognized as a “Culinary Capital” under the international program “World Food Travel Association”, so that in time, we can reach the highest title awarded by the international program UNESCO City of Gastronomy. This title will put Oranjestad on the international map and attract new and exclusive clientele for our island.

The first phase of the Revitalization of Oranjestad is only the beginning. For a while already work is being carried out on other projects that are yet to be announced. Minister Geoffrey Wever wants to send the correct signal and show that the Government of Aruba want to partner with the private sector in development.

Creating housing in our city center is an important element to achieve the revitalization of Oranjestad. In order to give content to this vision, the necessary exer-



cises were done to present realistic projects of such magnitude that they result in a significant increase in the amount of people in our city center. “When people live in the city center, it creates a constant flow of people who will be clientele for the businesses in the city center”, Wever pointed out.

Finalizing his message, Wever expressed that he is happy with this first step to develop Oranjestad in a housing and gastronomy center. The hope is to motivate commerce, financial institutions and local and international investors to invest in our city center, Oranjestad. □

Prime minister and Dutch Secretary of State pay visit to Foundation Against Relational Violence

ORANJESTAD – Dutch Secretary of State, Mr. Eric van den Burg is carrying out a short work visit in Aruba, related to the apology of the Netherlands regarding the topic of slavery. Also during his visit, together with prime minister of Aruba, Mrs. Evelyn Wever-Croes, Van den Burg paid a visit to the Foundation Against Relational Violence, FCVR.

Secretary of State Van den Burg is also in charge of Justice and the issue of asylum seekers. But also in charge of the topic of violence and abuse against people. In this context, Van den Burg visited FCVR considering this visit to be of great importance for the Secretary of State to have insight on what Aruba is already doing regarding this issue. The FCVR building was ex-

panded thanks to funds from the Netherlands, and for this reason, it is important for them to see what was done with their funds.

FCVR is doing enormous work for our local community by helping women that are in difficulty so that they can have a safe and secure place to turn to, so they can stand on their own two feet again, in ev-



ery sense.

“It is always a pleasure when you visit a foundation doing such a great job. Of course in my heart I wish that we would never

have the need for such a foundation, but the reality is that we need it, and we can count on this foundation in cases where it is necessary”, prime minister Wever-Croes said. □



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Aqua Grill restaurant: The taste of New England with Caribbean flair



ORANJESTAD — One thing is for certain: Chef Scott Scheuerman and his team are famous for getting people hooked, just like the fish on your plate. You will get the taste of home fused with Caribbean while dining in elegance. Scheuerman will tell how Aqua Grill established its name since opening in 2002, and why it reaped accolades from such prestigious travel publications as Fodor's, who says, "This hip restaurant is heaven on earth for seafood lovers, who will find fresh fish galore..." Now is your chance to taste Aqua Grill's NEW seasonal menu and create a lifetime culinary memory.

'A Scheuer thing'

Secretly, we all know that the success of a restaurant begins in the kitchen. That is where the chef creates his magic and for Aqua Grill the culinary team has won an assortment of awards for their continuous delivery of 'haute-cuisine del mar.' Classic seafood is mingled with contemporary ideas resulting in surprising dishes that soon made the restaurant a must-dine, confirmed by established travel media specialists like Fodor's and Frommer's. American-born Scheuerman, executive chef of Aqua Grill, is thrilled about 'his restaurant'. "We started out as a New England style seafood restaurant, patterned after Boston style. But we quickly blended into some Caribbean, local flair... if you will. We do still offer the traditional New England dishes like whole Maine lobster, northern seafood plates like the salmon, tuna and swordfish. We buy also from the local fisherman to offer Caribbean dishes like snapper and grouper which are number one sellers in our restaurant being



the most prevalent local fishes. Catches like wahoo, mahi mahi and brasil are welcome too, anything that comes out of the water we embrace."

Fresh import from Boston

Aqua Grill flies in their own shipments on a weekly basis mostly from Boston because the price quality balance is the best, says the chef. "We are unique in this. Number one priority is buying fresh, we mean not frozen. Our original concept is New England seafood and we stick to that concept. They have a wonderful assortment of oysters and lobsters as well." Aqua Grill also offers international fusion type of menu items; actually all you wish for is there. A very balanced menu awaits you. "And we have options for meat lovers and vegetarians/vegans too. We, however, do not mix it up too much because we believe we do not want to lose our identity as a seafood restaurant," Scheuerman adds.

Sublime menu

Now is the time to indulge in Aqua Grill's dinner experience. The established restaurant



offers a sensational menu. We present to you a Raw Bar with among others fresh Oysters on the half Shell, Littleneck Clams, Peruvian Ceviche and Lobster Salad. Steamed Dumplings and Prawns or Steamed Mussels seduce you from the open view kitchen.

After that continue your gastronomic trip to heaven with the house specialties like Main Lobster, steamed or broiled or maybe you crave for the best Alaska King Crab Legs you have ever tasted?

You haven't reached your destination yet because there are more main course options to blow you away: Seared Chilean Sea Bass, Cioppino or Blackened Tuba are just some to mention.

Take a pick out of Aqua Grill's delicious desserts to finally conclude yes, this beats it all. We will be back for more. □

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Participation of the General Court of Auditors in XXIV INCOSAI Brazil

ORANJESTAD - The President of the General Audit Office, also in her capacity as President of CAROSAI, Ms. Croes-Williams, and the Secretary of the General Audit Office, Ms. de Jong-Curet, participated in the XXIV INCOSAI Congress from November 7 to 12, 2022.



In the 24th International Congress of General Audit Institutions, 147 delegations (700 representatives) from different countries and (regional) organizations participated. Minister Bruno Dantas, Auditor General of the Federal Audit Office of Brazil (Tribunal de Contas da União - TCU), chaired the meetings during this INCOSAI Congress.

They presented several topics and held several discussion panels. The main themes of the congress concern:
 The fight against the climate crisis;
 The role of General Audit Offices in emergencies;
 The independence of General Audit Offices;

The joint conduct of coordinated investigations;
 The role of General Audit Offices in the fight against drugs and crime;
 The presentation of SAI reports on the Development Goals, 2030 SDG Agenda, concerning, among other things, the fight against poverty.

Furthermore, they discussed administrative issues for subsequent approval. They include the activity and financial report for the three years 2019-2021, the presentation and the INTOSAI Strategic Plan 2023-2028 approval, and the regional reports of EUROSAI, ARABSAI, ASOSAI, AFROSAI, CAROSAI, OLACEFS, and PASAI. It is important to note that they expelled the membership of the Nether-

lands Antilles.

Ms. Croes-Williams, also in her capacity as CAROSAI president, also participated in the Capacity Building Committee meeting (CBC meeting). The chairman gave a presentation at this meeting and shared Aruba's General Audit Office experiences on the "Supreme Audit Institute Performance Management Framework (SAI PMF) of Aruba - Small Island State in the Caribbean", Leave No SAI Behind, with all attendees. SAI PMF is the first step toward upgrading a General Audit Office. SAls, that conduct and complete this self-assessment are front-runners, as only 77 General Audit Offices in the world have done so. In addition to completing this assessment, Aruba's General Audit Office made its results public. Only 15 countries have done so to date.

Participation in the XXIV INCOSAI Congress was very intensive. In addition to all the meetings, discussion panels, and gatherings, the

Aruban delegation maintained many contacts and made new ones with members of sister institutions and regional organizations. These include SAI Brazil, Egypt, South Africa, Latvia, Philippines, Turkey, Peru, Chile, and Mexico, also with IDI, US GAO, and UNDESA. They also held meetings or discussions with colleagues from CAROSAI, OLACEFS, the General Audit Institutions of the Netherlands and Curacao on improving financial management and with the Court of Audit of Belgium and the General Audit Office of Suriname respectively on possible support and cooperation between the Dutch-speaking Audit Institutions. They also consider a joint study. A possible topic could be Brazil's initiative with INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI), to conduct a global study on climate change and its consequences.

The XXIV International Congress of General Accounts (INCOSAI 2022) concluded with the adoption by the INTOSAI community of the



Rio de Janeiro Declaration. In this declaration, the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) pledged to continue its work by responding to change and emerging risks and to foster better collaboration with stakeholders to advance the General Audit Institutions and INTOSAI work.

During the official closing of the XXIV INCOSAI Congress, the President of the General Audit Office presented to the Auditor General of SAI Brazil, also the President of INTOSAI and host, a book on the cultural heritage of Aruba. The General Court of Auditors wishes to thank the National Archaeological Museum Aruba and Foundation 1403 for this beautiful gift, which Mr. Bruno Dantas very gratefully received. □

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Aruba Natural Vitamins

Episode CLXXXV- 185

Etnia Nativa, through Island Insight, shares native cultural awareness, educates and safeguards Aruba's heritage, and encourages readers to experiment with an island keeper state of mind. Live and discover the true destination values behind our beaches. Discover more reasons to love Aruba through this native cultural blog. In this episode, we share the notion of how this small destination can offer the perfect combination of sun and sea healing powers, which provide a unique mind-relaxing sensation in such a way that your first day at the beach will immediately decrease your stress levels to zero.



In Aruba, you will not only enjoy a well-deserved rest, but you will also be able to take advantage of the many benefits that sea water has to offer for one's skin. How your body instinctively knows how to make the most of this situation: your skin, including your scalp, will improve its appearance due to the composition of seawater, and if you suffer from any condition, such as acne, you will notice a significant improvement after the first few baths in the sea, all with moderation, as with everything in life.

You will also have a very beneficial aggregate, which is sand, as an extra scrub to fully treat your skin. When you walk on the beach, without any effort, the dead skin will be eliminated and the roughness of the heels will disappear carefully and without force. You can also rub other parts of the body with sand, preferably wet, to remove dead skin or flaking. Take the opportunity to give yourself a soft massage.

Sea water is very beneficial because it contains vitamins, mineral salts, trace elements, and amino acids that promote skin regeneration. Elements such as zinc, iodine, potassium, sodium, fluoride, sulfur, or calcium help wound healing.

It stores microorganisms that produce antibiotics, antimicrobials, and antibacterial substances. For this reason, contact with salt water also has disinfectant properties.

The salt in the water has a healthy exfoliating effect, naturally removing dead and damaged skin and contributing to the cleaning of toxins and impurities that accumulate in the dermis. The minerals in seawater,

such as magnesium, help hydrate and nourish the skin while having a restorative effect.

Despite the fact that the combination of seawater and sun favors the production of vitamin D, which is essential for the skin to have vitality and more elasticity, you must be careful with sun exposure because seawater does not protect you from sun damage but rather quite the opposite because, by reflecting radiation, it causes you to burn more easily.

However, the contrast of the seawater temperature and the impact of the waves on the body will immediately stimulate blood circulation.

If you have ever heard that life is tastier in the sea, it is true, but swimming in the sea is also more beneficial because you enjoy a totally sensory experience: you hear the waves, you feel the temperature, and you see the reflection of the sun in the water—details that allow a full connection with the water and nature itself.

Swimming in the sea is an exercise that requires a lot of concentration and co-

ordination; therefore, it greatly improves motor skills while increasing memory function.

You will also burn many calories by practicing muscle work, much more than in any other exercise, increasing and toning the muscle mass of your body. The spine becomes more flexible, which aids in the elimination of back pain.

We encourage you to spend as much time as possible getting closer to nature, experiencing a true sense of freedom, and giving rise to a body relaxation that will distract your mind to the point where your only thought will be to return as many times as possible to enjoy the vitamins from Aruba!

Now if you have been touched by our island's life and you're intrigued by its origins and cultural heritage, we encourage you to do something different outside the tourist grid. Become one of the exclusive visitors to the Etnia Nativa Experience, a private residential setting where you will be able to touch and be touched by an authentic Aruban assemblage of native art, archaic as well as archaeological artifacts, lithic tools, colonial furniture, and other collections. Get connected inside a recycled environment full of peace and relaxation, knowledge, information, and a grounded lifestyle.



Anthony, our acclaimed columnist, local artist, and island expert, has lived on Etnia Nativa since 1994, and he guides and lectures his guests through his resplendent home. The sole place to recreate and be introduced to an authentic glimpse into native Aruba. For a change, try something completely new: a contemporary Native Aruban experience!

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Dutch Secretary of State, Van der Burg: “We need to give priority to modern slavery

ORANJESTAD – Last Monday, the prime minister of the Netherlands, Mr. Mark Rutte offered apologies in the name of the past government for slavery in the past. In the afternoon, the prime minister of Aruba, Mrs. Evelyn Wever-Croes together with Dutch Secretary of State for Justice and Security, Mr. Eric van der Burg held a press conference regarding this historical moment.

Premier Wever-Croes pointed out that the apology of the Cabinet marks a historical day. “It is a day that our ancestors could only dream about. The prime minister of the Netherlands, Mark Rutte apologized for slavery in the past. He recognized before that this was a crime against humanity, and then he offered his official apology.”

Wever-Croes added that even though she could comment on the way in which the preparations for the apology took place, “this does not take away that well-intended apologies are always welcome and that they owe our ancestors to find recognition for them, as they have received today.”

Wever-Croes said that what Rutte said, namely, that this is not a period, but a comma, because from this moment on, Aruba, the Netherlands and the entire Kingdom will continue working together on the path to recovery, restoration and reconciliation. She emphasized that the Government of Aruba is very thankful to the government of the Netherlands for taking this very important first step, and it is now left to the present generation to ensure that what happened in the past never takes place again, and this is why they will be taking steps together to prevent it.

Regarding Aruba, Wever-Croes indicated that minister of Culture, Xiomara Maduro formed a commis-



sion that since the first of July 2022, has been working on the history of slavery, and their wish is that for next July 1st they can present a concrete plan on what this all means for Aruba.

Van der Burg pointed out the importance of this historical moment for the Netherlands, Aruba and the entire Dutch Caribbean. He remembered that in his speech, Rutte was very clear as well that he is also thankful to people and organizations that during the last years have been working on proving how important it is for the Netherlands to express their apologies and to have recognition of the crimes that took place against people.

The Secretary of State also said that Monday morning he had a nice meeting with Wever-Croes, one in which there was also the possibility of expressing criticism – for example, for the date chosen, the process until now during which some things did not go optimally,

among others – something that Rutte also mentioned in his speech. “As was already mentioned, this is the beginning of the trajectory for us to continue working together on improving the relationship between Aruba and the Netherlands, but also the beginning of the trajectory for the next processes regarding the history of slavery”, Van der Burg said.

Aside from that, he emphasized that it is very important also to recognize the history of slavery and also show how the effects of this remain to this day in the life of people and in society.

Van der Burg mentioned that during his stay he visited the National Archive of Aruba and he commented that that shows how important it is for the archive to not only capture history, but also make this history public for all who want to see how the story of a specific person was, the story of their family, but also what it meant for that person in

the present and future.

During questions from the press, our reporter asked the Secretary of State about modern slavery and abuse. Van der Burg explained that he visited the team that is in charge of people smuggling and trafficking in Aruba. He emphasized that even though he came to Aruba in the name of the government of the Netherlands in the context of the apology for slavery in the past, daily as Secretary of State he is responsible for different affairs and two of these are people smuggling and trafficking, which he underscored is very important to him.

Van der Burg also explained that he could see what is already being done in Aruba in this area and how they are taking big, important steps to bring experts on human trafficking and human smuggling, to train people, not only in the direction of law enforcement but also in the direc-

tion of the state, the coast guard and public servants.

The Secretary of State added that they are introducing expertise on processing of people guilty of human smuggling and trafficking. He added that we must remember that everyone needs to pay attention to awareness within the community, because a lot of people don't realize the danger of human trafficking.

“What sometimes we see as just bad labor conditions, or we say that people can leave, they can quit and go do something else, but it's exploitation of vulnerable people who are in a position to be exploited and many times do not have a way out”, he pointed out.

Van der Burg emphasized that priority need to be given to modern slavery, which is not comparable to the history of slavery but nonetheless is completely unacceptable. □

CROSSWORD

By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

ACROSS

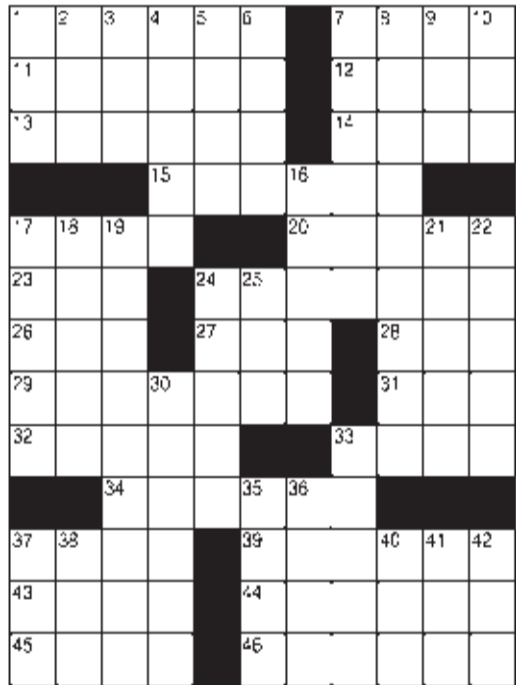
- 1 Cold spell
- 7 Prejudice
- 11 Baltimore player
- 12 Aware of
- 13 Setting item
- 14 Hearty dish
- 15 Mount Vernon, for one
- 17 Take turns
- 20 Dictionary fill
- 23 Toe count
- 24 Droopy-eared dog
- 26 Clumsy one
- 27 Golf goal
- 28 Mine material
- 29 Onetime Danish province
- 31 Spectrum end
- 32 Harvest goddess
- 33 Invites
- 34 Con
- 37 New Mexico resort
- 39 "Forget it!"
- 43 Plot unit
- 44 Acting company
- 45 Base meal
- 46 Quartet plus trio

DOWN

- 1 Took the title
- 2 Lyricist Gershwin
- 3 Tiny taste
- 4 Game piece
- 5 New Haven students
- 6 Tenant's fee
- 7 Celtics' home
- 8 Some designers design them
- 9 Had lunch
- 10 Plant
- 16 Oscar or Tony
- 17 Impassive one
- 18 Treaty goal
- 19 Ones of lower rank
- 21 Baseball's Jeter
- 22 Luges
- 24 Twitch
- 25 Scathing review
- 30 Eye parts
- 33 Man of morals
- 35 Picnic pests
- 36 Ripped cap
- 37 Woolen card
- 38 Poker card
- 40 Ump's call
- 41 Gorilla, e.g.
- 42 Parrot or puppy



Yesterday's answer



12-21

**AXYDLBAXR
IS LONGFELLOW**

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

12-21

CRYPTOQUOTE

DGITIY YZOIDGCSK MEZXD M
GZBCPMA DGMD CYS'D MBB MEZXD
GZV OXWG OZSIA AZX YLISP.

— GCBMTCI EXT DZS

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: YOU CAN TELL A LOT ABOUT A PERSON BY THE WAY (S)HE HANDLES THREE THINGS: A RAINY DAY, LOST LUGGAGE, AND TANGLED CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS. — MAYA ANGELOU



Mark Zuckerberg speaks at Georgetown University, on Oct. 17, 2019, in Washington. Associated Press

Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg takes witness stand in FTC case

By **BARBARA ORTUTAY**
AP Technology Writer
SAN JOSE, California (AP)

— Mark Zuckerberg, the CEO of Facebook's parent company Meta, took the witness stand Tuesday in a trial over U.S. antitrust regulators' effort to stop the tech giant from buying a virtual reality startup called Within Unlimited.

At issue is whether Meta's acquisition of the small company that makes a VR fitness app called Supernatural will hurt competition in the emerging virtual reality market. If the deal is allowed to go through, the Federal Trade Commission argues, it would violate antitrust laws and dampen innovation, hurting consumers who may face higher prices and fewer options outside platforms controlled by Meta Platforms Inc.

Meta, meanwhile, wants to poke holes in the FTC's argument that there even exists a distinct market for what the FTC calls "VR dedicated fitness apps." □

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Krasinski's 'Jack Ryan' returns to TV after 3-year wait

By **ALICIA RANCILIO**
Associated Press

Season three of "Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan," starring John Krasinski, returns to Amazon Prime Video with a storyline that may feel familiar.

We meet Ryan, now stationed in Rome, as he discovers an underground plot by Russia to invade surrounding countries and recreate the Soviet empire. The episodes were written three years ago, and production wrapped long before Russia invaded Ukraine.

Filming "Jack Ryan" was delayed when the pandemic forced everything to shut down. Krasinski turned his focus to a weekly home-made newscast called "Some Good News," sharing positive stories during a dark time.

Like many, he wasn't focused on diet and exercise while in quarantine. Krasinski jokes his "Some Good News" shape was ideal because you never saw him standing up as he was always seated like a newscaster.

"You didn't even see the bottom half of me. That's where I felt most comfortable," he said. When it was time to buckle down,



This image released by Amazon Prime Video shows John Krasinski, left, and Michael Kelly in a scene from "Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan."

Krasinski said he was motivated by the idea that the show would be a reason for many to finally resume working after months of waiting.

"It was actually a very cleansing thing," said Krasinski, who is also an executive producer and helps write the episodes. "I took a great responsibility with all these hundreds of people who were brave enough to put their lives on the line to bring back our industry in

some small way. "It was almost like getting into my best possible shape and self, both physically and mentally, to prepare for something that we knew would be much more different and much more harrowing, but hopefully that much more worth it." In the new episodes, which begin streaming on Wednesday.

Ryan's attempts to alert the CIA to his discovery about Russia result in the the

agency turning on him and issuing a Red Notice calling for his arrest and extradition back to the U.S. to face charges.

Ryan's former boss James Greer (played by Wendell Pierce) assists as much as he can from the inside, and Ryan seeks out his old pal Mike November (Michael Kelly), who left the agency at the end of season two, to help thwart Russia's plan. Krasinski and Kelly's relationship on screen pro-

vides some moments of levity, amid all the action and looming catastrophe. Kelly, who is known for serious roles such as "House of Cards," says it's a fun departure to have those lighter on-screen moments. "John will write a lot of those one-liners for me on the day and I'm so grateful I get to have the humor. To get to play something a little closer to myself was such a treat," said Kelly.

"Jack Ryan" has also made Kelly appreciative of the dedication of those who protect us on a daily basis "from the Navy SEALs all the way to Port Authority police officers."

He says many are fans of the show and like to talk to him about the realities of the job. "I tell my kids all the time, '(When) we pass a police officer, say thank you... You see someone in the armed services. You say thank you.'

Our veterans, they come home and are so underserved in this country. We need to be doing more and we need to be saying thank you more."

For Pierce, the role has given him a fresh perspective into his own brother who served as a military attache in Belarus. □

Associated Press

Caro still working away on fifth LBJ book, no pub date set

By **HILLEL ITALIE**
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The good news on Robert A. Caro's long-awaited next book is that he knows the final words.

The bad news is that he's known them for years and remains far from concluding his Lyndon B. Johnson series. Caro, who also wrote "The Power Broker," has published four volumes of "The Years of Lyndon Johnson" over a period of 40 years. Volume 4, "The Passage of Power," came out in 2012.

The fifth volume is expected to cover Johnson's first full year as president, 1964, and continue through the end of his administration

in 1969 and his death four years later.

"It is huge," Caro says of the scale of the final book. Measuring his progress is hard because he doesn't work chronologically. Two years ago, Caro spoke of writing about the year 1967, a time of growing unrest in Black communities and rising opposition to the Vietnam War.

Interviewed recently to promote "Turn Every Page," a documentary about Caro and his editor Robert Gottlieb, the author said he is now deep into a section on health care for the elderly before Johnson signed the Medicare and Medicaid Act in 1965.

Caro has always thoughts

of his books as not so much the portrait of a man, but of political power and its effects. Taken together, the already published Johnson volumes which began with "The Path to Power" and include "Means of Ascent" and the Pulitzer Prize-winning "Master of the Senate" exceed 4,000 pages and feature extended probes into everything from filibusters to the mechanics of a stolen election.

For the yet untitled Volume 5, the 87-year-old Caro hopes to write about the Vietnam War's impact on a Vietnamese village and still plans to travel to Vietnam, a trip that has been postponed because of the pandemic. He has already

worked on a less talked about moment in the Johnson presidency, when he sent more than 20,000

troops to the Dominican Republic in 1965 to prevent a feared communist takeover. □



Author and biographer Robert Caro stands beside an image of his younger self after touring a permanent exhibit in his honor, "Turn Every Page": Inside the Robert A. Caro Archive, at the New York Historical Society Museum & Library in New York on Oct. 20, 2021.

Associated Press

Tiger has shots and a limp to keep everyone guessing

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Tiger Woods relished the two days spent with his son, along with the chance to remind anyone watching he still has game. Some of the shots he hit during the PNC Championship did not belong to a ceremonial golfer.

Woods hasn't lost his needle, either, as sharp as his short game.

The fifth fairway at the Ritz-Carlton Golf Club Orlando was immaculate except for a scorecard stuck into the grass next to the tee shot of Justin Thomas, which was some 15 yards behind where Woods had hit his drive.

On the card, a note that Woods wrote in cursive: "You've got mail."

Padraig Harrington broke into laughter when he heard about this. The message takes on different meaning to different people for the Irishman, it refers to being in a different postal code but it translates to how far Woods blew it by him. "You don't even have to write it down. We all know when somebody does that," Harrington said. "He was airmailed."

Small victories? Not really. Woods said in the Bahamas earlier this month, when he



Tiger Woods tees off on the 4th hole during the final round of the PNC Championship golf tournament Sunday, Dec. 18, 2022, in Orlando, Fla.

was reduced to being only the tournament host because of plantar fasciitis in his right foot, that he could still hit all the shots. The trouble was walking to them.

He was in a cart at the PNC Championship because the PGA Tour Champions runs the event and carts are allowed on the senior circuit. John Daly is about to have knee replacement and took a ride. So did David Duval, playing with a torn muscle in his calf.

The question is when Woods will play next on the PGA

Tour. Not even he knows.

A year ago, when he was still recovering from broken bones in his right leg from a car crash in Los Angeles some 10 months earlier, his only hope was to play the British Open at St. Andrews. He wound up playing two other majors, making 2022 a success. The speculation on his return will start in February for the Genesis Invitational at Riviera and continue until azaleas begin to bloom at Augusta National. For now, everyone is left with predictions, always a

dangerous game involving Woods. Remember, in a span of five years he had four surgeries on his lower back and had to deal with a DUI arrest stemming from a mix of painkillers. And then he won the Masters. "You'd figure not a chance," Matt Kuchar said. "He's proven me wrong on multiple guesses of will he play again, will he win again, all of those. I've probably been proven wrong several times, and I'm a guy of the mindset you can never count him

out.

"If there's a chance which you know there is a chance he's going to find it."

Opinions vary widely. Last week alone, Colin Montgomerie doubted Woods could ever win again. He said Woods would have to return to a higher than ever standard of golf to be able to beat players 20 years younger than him and "I don't see that happening." A few days later, Harrington said he thought Woods can still win a major.

Woods turns 47 on Dec. 30. Once he stepped out of the cart and set up over a 3-iron into the 18th green Saturday, he looked every bit of 27.

"There's not many in the world of golf that could hit that shot 159 (mph) ball speed, off the fairway with an iron, knowing his irons have quite a bit of loft," Harrington said. "That's a very impressive strike."

"There are people hitting 3-irons out on tour who are low 140s ball speed," he added. "There's not many people who can do that in the world of golf."

Given the atmosphere of the PNC Championship Woods never smiled so wide when playing in the final group and tying for eighth he was in self-deprecating form. □

Associated Press

Kipyokei gets 6-year doping ban, loses Boston Marathon title

MONACO (AP) — Kenyan marathoner Diana Kipyokei has been banned for six years and stripped of her 2021 Boston Marathon title for doping and tampering, the Athletics Integrity Unit said Tuesday.

Kipyokei's urine sample after winning in Boston in October 2021 had traces of triamcinolone acetonide — an anti-inflammatory prohibited at races when an athlete does not have permission to use it as a medication.

The AIU said Kipyokei "provided false/misleading information" in trying to explain her use of the substance, "including fake

documentation which she alleged came from a hospital." The Boston Athletic

Association announced that Kipyokei's result in the 2021 Boston Marathon has

been disqualified, and that Edna Kiplagat of Kenya has been elevated to winner. Kiplagat is now recognized as a two-time Boston winner, having also won in 2017.

The BAA had said in October that it would annul Kipyokei's result pending completion of the AIU investigation and sanction announcement.

The AIU also announced that a second Kenyan marathoner, Purity Rionoripo, has received a five-year ban for similar offenses.

Rionoripo won the 2017 Paris Marathon.

Her sample taken in May in Kenya revealed the

presence of furosemide, which is a diuretic. "In her explanation, she claimed to have been prescribed medication by a doctor at a hospital to treat an ankle injury and presented supporting documentation. However, investigations revealed that, though Rionoripo was treated at the hospital, she had altered her prescription form to include Lasix (the commercial name for furosemide)," the AIU said. Rionoripo could have been banned for six years but received a one-year reduction "due to an early admission and acceptance of the sanction," the AIU said. □



Diana Kipyokei, of Kenya, holds a Boston Marathon championship trophy following a news conference, on Oct. 12, 2021, in Boston.

Associated Press

Historic Vikings rally rises above, in age of NFL comeback

By **DAVE CAMPBELL**
AP Pro Football Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Kirk Cousins interrupted the beginning of the television interview that was being shouted above the euphoric uproar in Minnesota, incredulously repeating his question to the reporter to make sure he had the details right.

Yes, the Vikings had just completed the biggest comeback in NFL history, down 33-0 midway through the third quarter before beating Indianapolis 39-36 in overtime on Saturday.

"Something like that doesn't happen to average people," Cousins said later.

Inside the raucous locker room at U.S. Bank Stadium, eighth-year linebacker Eric Kendricks wiped away tears as he reflected on the spirit, resiliency and camaraderie of a team that has won 10 games by eight points or fewer this season. Rookie head coach Kevin O'Connell stepped off the podium following his media session in a fog of satisfaction and exhaustion, reflecting on cornerback Patrick Peterson's straight-faced halftime challenge to the offense "You just need five touchdowns" that helped set the tone. "I'll never forget it as long as I live," O'Connell said.



Minnesota Vikings cornerback Patrick Peterson (7) reacts with teammate quarterback Kirk Cousins, right, after an NFL football game against the Indianapolis Colts, Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022, in Minneapolis. The Vikings won 39-36 in overtime.

Buffalo's erasure of a 35-3 deficit to beat Houston 41-38 in overtime of their wild card round playoff game after the 1992 season stood as the previous record, and though Cousins was only 4 years old at the time he's enough of a fan of the game to have seen the rebroadcasts and read the recaps to hold full reverence for that rally led by Bills backup quarterback Frank Reich.

"That one still to this day, I wonder, 'How did that happen?'" Cousins said. There might not be as

much mystery around Minnesota's version once the next generation gets up to speed on the game. The comeback has become a common feature of the NFL these days.

Cincinnati and Jacksonville each rallied from 17-point holes to win on Sunday, the first time three teams have registered comeback victories of at least that size in the same week. Three other clubs won despite fourth-quarter deficits.

The NFL has had 44 games this season with a team trailing by 10 points or more

that wins or ties, including four instances by the Vikings. That's the most in league history through 15 weeks. Clubs that have been behind at any point in the fourth quarter have come back to win or tie 71 times, also an NFL record to date. The game now is simply more conducive to teams scoring more quickly and more often, through the evolution of the players, rules and coaches.

The best quarterbacks are continually advancing athletically and strategically, and these biggest stars of

Associated Press

the sport have enjoyed increased protection for years with defensive players more strictly penalized for their endangerment. The receivers are more likely to draw a flag for pass interference or a hard, high hit than the guys covering them on the other side. Even the kickers have stronger and more accurate legs to make midfield a green light for late field goal tries in many situations. Consider how the Vikings got this done against the Colts.

Dayo Odeyingbo tackled Jalen Reagor for a 5-yard loss on a jet sweep that would've given the Vikings second-and-15 from their own 20 with nearly 5 minutes elapsed in the third quarter. But Odeyingbo briefly stood over Reagor in an intimidating manner that was whistled for a 15-yard taunting penalty, one of the NFL's recent emphases on sportsmanship. Two plays later, Cousins connected with K.J. Osborn for a 63-yard pass that set up the first touchdown.

Two possessions later, Justin Jefferson drew an unnecessary roughness penalty on safety Rodney Thomas during a reception for a first down that moved the ball from the Colts 48 to the 33. The Vikings were in the end zone four plays later. □

Judge and Yankees finalize \$360 million, 9-year contract



New York Yankees' Aaron Judge watches his solo home run ball during the second inning of Game 5 of an American League Division baseball series against the Cleveland Guardians, Oct. 18, 2022, in New York.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — American League MVP Aaron Judge and the New York Yankees on Tuesday finalized their \$360 million, nine-year contract, the third-largest deal in baseball history.

New York announced the agreement and called a news conference for Wednesday at Yankee Stadium to discuss the contract, which was agreed to on Dec. 7 subject to a successful physical.

Judge hit 62 homers last season to break the previous AL record of 61 set by the Yankees' Roger Maris in

1961. Just before opening day, Judge turned down the Yankees' offer of \$213.5 million over seven years (2023-29).

By betting on himself, Judge gained an additional \$146.5 million and two guaranteed seasons. He turns 31 in April.

Judge's contract trails only Mike Trout's \$426.5 million deal with the Los Angeles Angels for 2019-31 and Mookie Betts' \$365 million pact with the Los Angeles Dodgers for 2021-32. Judge's \$40 million average salary is the highest for a position player, behind

only New York Mets pitchers Max Scherzer and Justin Verlander at \$43.33 million. Judge hit .311 and tied for the major league lead with 131 RBIs. He hit 16 home runs more than any other player, the largest gap since the Philadelphia Athletics' Jimmie Foxx hit 58 in 1932 and the Yankees' Babe Ruth had 41.

A Northern California native, Judge met with the San Francisco Giants last month. He could be in line to become New York's first captain since Derek Jeter retired after the 2014 season. □